

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 14, line 17 to read:

A sales staff of an ingredient manufacturer receives a written request at the clients 202 through the communications server 201. ~~The sales staff inputs uses the~~
Using one or more of clients 202, the sales staff and inputs a retrieval request about the composition ingredient relating to the main ingredient described in the written request (<2> shown in Figure 3) and acquires the information (composition information) about the main ingredient X1 accumulated in the communications server 301 of the composition manufacturer system 300 or various product composition formed by the ingredient similar in properties to it, and the properties and the manufacture condition attained by them (<3> shown in Figure 3). Furthermore, the product composition containing the composition ingredient X2 manufactured by the ingredient manufacturer and the manufacture condition are obtained according to the accumulated information in the communications server 301. Additionally, the information about the properties, etc. of a product is obtained from the accumulated information in its own communications server 201 or the communications server 301 of the composition manufacturer system 300 of the composition manufacturer. Thus, the properties of an estimated product are determined. Then, the sales staff inputs information (information about composition ingredient, quantity, etc.) for estimation from the clients 202, uses an estimating program of the communications server 201, and calculates the manufacture cost, and the product cost. When the product has legal restrictions on a substance available as a

composition ingredient ~~as medicines~~, the composition and the production cost should be determined within the range of the restrictions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 23, line 1 to read:

In ~~the concepts of~~ addition to the product manufacturer, the ingredient manufacturer, the composition manufacturer, a proxy agent, such as, for example, a trading company₁ can be included in embodiments consistent with the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 23, line 6 to read:

Figure 4 shows the entire configuration of the medicine (pharmaceutical) prototype support system applicable to the embodiment described later. In Figure 4, the computer system 100 used by a product manufacturer (hereinafter referred to simply as a product manufacturer system), ~~and~~ includes main ingredient information about medicines so that new medicines can be developed. Normally, the product composition contained in ~~the medicines~~ contains ~~the important~~ an ingredient having efficacy (main ingredient), a ~~and~~ composition ingredient having efficacy (main ingredient)₁ and a composition ingredient having no efficacy₁ but required in preparing and designing medicines. The product manufacturer system has a communications server 101 and one or more client 102 LAN-connected to the communications server 101. The communications server 101 transfers the information transmitted from the client 102 to the ingredient manufacturer system 200. The client 102 can use a personal computer, etc., and is loaded with a browser for browsing electronic mail software, and/or a home page (HTML document, etc.). The client 102 inputs information to be transmitted to the

client of other systems described later, and displays the information received from other systems.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 25, line 11 to read:

The exemplary prototype support system further includes a A communications network 400 capable of connecting the systems 100 to 330. ~~[[,]] and This~~ communications network can ~~use~~ comprise a well-known communications network, such as, for example, a dedicated telephone line, called the Internet, ~~and regardless of~~ or other known wireless or cable networks.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 25, line 19 to read:

The staff ~~of product manufacture~~ of a product manufacturer inputs a written request from the client 102, that is, a written request (<1> shown in Figure 4A) for providing a product composition to attain the desired properties of the product X including a manufactured main ingredient X1 and a manufacturing method, and transmits it to the ingredient manufacturer system 200 through the server 101. A request item from the product manufacturer can be the designation of the main ingredient X1, a desired item value of a product, ~~and also~~ a product style, a desired product cost, ~~the~~ restrictions on the manufacture condition, ~~the~~ restrictions on a used ingredient, ~~etc.~~ or other desired design parameters.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 26, line 6 to read:

When it is ~~generally hard~~ difficult for an ingredient manufacturer to obtain the main ingredient X1, it is necessary for a product manufacturer to provide the main ingredient X1 for an ingredient manufacturer. When ~~it is impossible to~~ the product manufacturer cannot externally offer an ingredient under a development stage, a substance similar in properties to the main ingredient X1 is provided[[,]] or the property information necessary in designing medicines can be provided to the ingredient ~~although designation of the main ingredient X1 cannot be specified~~. Furthermore, a request for a style (placebo) in which preparation and design can be performed only using the composition ingredient excluding the main ingredient X1 from the medicines X. They are different in request cost relating to the manufacture of a prototype because they are related to the disclosure of confidential information, difficulty in preparation and design, and the development speed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 26, line 21 to read:

A sales staff of an ingredient manufacturer receives a written request at the clients 202 through the communications server 201. The sales staff ~~inputs~~ uses one or more of the clients 202 and inputs to input a retrieval request about the composition ingredient relating to the medicine X described in the written request for the communications server 201 (<2> shown in Figure 4). The composition information database in the communications server 201 of the ingredient manufacturer system 200 stores the main ingredient X1 and the main ingredient X'1 similar to the main ingredient X1, various composition manufacture information including the composition ingredient X2 manufactured by the ingredient manufacturer, and information (composition

information) relating to the preparing manufacture condition using the properties attained by them, the main ingredient X1 and X'1 (<3> shown in Figure 4). Then, the optimum composition ingredient X2 related to the X1 information can be detected. Thus, the properties of an estimated product are determined. Then, the sales staff inputs information (information about composition ingredient, quantity, etc.) for estimation from the clients 202, uses an estimating program of the communications server 201, and calculates the prototype manufacture cost, and the product cost. To calculate the cost, a cost calculation database is prepared depending on the prototype development speed, the difficulty in pharmaceutical designing, and the security of the main ingredient. When the product has legal restrictions on a substance available as a composition ingredient ~~as medicines~~, the composition and the production cost should be determined within the range of the restrictions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 30, line 22 to read:

When the ingredient manufacturer requests the composition manufacturer to manufacture a prototype, it is ~~desired that~~ preferable for the ingredient manufacturer to execute ~~makes a security contract in advance relating to the product composition, manufacture condition, etc.~~ with the composition manufacturer, even though ~~although~~ it is guaranteed that the information related to the main ingredient X1 can be protected against disclosure to the composition manufacturer. Such a security contract can, for example, ensure the confidentiality of the product composition, manufacture condition, etc. Furthermore, an ingredient manufacturer can also manufacture a prototype. In this case, the manufacturing department, etc. belonging to the ingredient manufacturer

functions as a composition manufacturer as shown in Figure 4. Furthermore, the costs for generating a process 1 prototype X, a process 2 prototype X, and a process 3 prototype X are determined.